

Father Mike speaks with children in St. Theresa's Catholic Church.

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Okolona, Mississippi - - or How I Received the Education of a Lifetime During One Short Week in the South

By Carol Toftness

Many people at Resurrection knew that I would be spending the week of March 18 in Mississippi. Five people from Avila College took advantage of spring vacation to lend assistance to St. Theresa's Catholic Church in Okolona. We left Kansas City not knowing what would be happening during the next week. By the time we returned to Kansas City late Easter Sunday. we were extremely tired; but we all felt we had experienced something very special. When asked to write about my experience, I felt I needed to wait until I had been able to assimilate the event of the week. However, there has never been doubt in my mind that Okolona did more for me than I could ever have done for Okolona!

Okolona is a town of 3,800 people of which 60% are black, and is located in Chicasaw County, about 30 minutes south of Tupelo. We knew that we would be working in a minority church of about six Catholic families, or 20 people - they thought they were in the minority? There was one Lutheran! We knew that the town was impoverished economically, educationally, and socially. Those were the facts; the realities changed many markers I have always used as standards.

Our experiences were so many and so varied. During that week I experienced the absolute best of life and the absolute worst. I saw four Sisters giving their all in an effort to lower educational and social boundaries. Black and white people came together, for the first time at St. Theresa's, to hear a woman dying of cancer and in a wheel chair preach and sing a once-in-a-lifetime sermon. The Holy Week services were exceptionally fine. The economic and social oppression was plainly evident, and first-hand stories of abuse and neglect were frequent. Someone had hung a hangman's noose from a tree in the cemetery.

Two families particularly stand out to me. One family is white with the husband and father being an attorney. A man who was on trial in Tupelo, who had stood up to the Klan was being defended by Kenny. The Burns family was harassed by the Ku Klux Klan. The other family is black and told me stories of slavery and participation in freedom marches in the sixties. In spite of the oppression endured by them, Mr. and Mrs. Raspberry are kind, gracious, lovely people.

In this small town in the South, people put their Christianity on the line every day, knowing full-well their personal and professional lives are at stake. In this small town people who have suffered extreme personal hardship and abuse remain loving and caring. I hadn't really considered how simple it has been for me to be a Christian, until I spent a week in Okolona.

Avila-Okolona Connection: "Do Unto Others..."

By Michelle Atkinson

Okolona, Mississippi. A thirteen-hour drive to a small (4,700 inhabitants) economically depressed town with only seven practicing Catholic families, looked down upon by most of the town's residents, much racial discord and a force working to break these bonds around Okolona: St. Theresa's Catholic Church.

It was into this atmosphere that Fr. Mike Zahorchak, Tom Alexander (a friend of Avila), and student volunteers Mike Joyce, Carol Toftness and Joe Patrico arrived nervous, curious and open to this new experience. The group went to provide outreach, act as witnesses for the Catholic church and to help support and take part in the social action started by St. Theresa's. They left as five individuals with diverse personalities blended, once at their destination, into a unified purposeful team. In what Fr. Zahorchak called "a glorious teamwork effort and experience, they worked to help Sr. Liz Brown, Pastoral Administrator for St. Theresa's, with the furtherance of the reconciliation of blacks and whites in Okolona. This was accomplished by our group doing yardwork for white and black elderly people and by giving time to work on the literacy program run by Sr. Nancy Corcoran and Sr. Joan Fila. The program, Enrichment and Excellence Through Community Educational Leadership (EXCEL), is the first to bring together "the community, blacks and whites, working together on something positive without it having to be forced on them," says Sr. Liz Brown. A program of this type was desperately needed in Okolona since Mississippi is rated 50 out of the 50 states for literacy. Some of the many highlights of

Some of the many highlights of the Avila-Okolona Connection included the visit of Sr. Thea Bowman to St. Theresa's. Sr. Bowman, famous for her efforts on behalf of reconciliation between races, drew much coverage from local and national media, and a mixture of both blacks and whites to the overflowing church the night of her visit.

Another highlight of the connection was, according to Fr. Zahorchak, Avila's own Mike Joyce and Joe Patrico. They were a "tremendous presence" in Okolona to young and old alike. Both chose to stay with an elderly black woman, Mrs. Lowery, who had been a teacher for 14 years. According to Mike things "weren't as bad as I thought they would be," and that the "people don't seem so poor (since) they're open about their poorness as though it's nothing." He says he feels the most important thing he learned was from Mrs. Lowery: to love everyone no matter their color but for who they are. Mike grew very close to the people in Okolona and plans on returning this summer.

Finally, came a day of excitement for all: Good Friday. The nuns from St. Theresa's and the Avila missionaries took the Catholic children of the town on a picnic to Ballard Park in Tupelo and then roller-skating at a nearby roller

rink. This was very special for these children since they normally do not get to celebrate their religion in this fashion. Once the festivities were over, our group prepared to say good-bye to Okolona.

Now that the Avila missionaries are back and their trip complete, what does this Avila-Okolona Connection really mean? According to Fr. Zahorchak the trip to Okolona will now be an annual affair and will hopefully signal the development of a strong out-of-town ministry for Avila. There is also an idea brewing which could easily involve everyone on campus. The idea is to form a club to keep this Avila-Okolona Connection on-going throughout the year by collecting canned foods for a food pantry the nuns wish to start, donating clothing for the people in Okolona and taking a few minutes each day to pray for those who provide help and those who need and receive help. This would provide a way for those on campus to experience some of the excitement, bonding and rejuvenation in faith and humanity these five fine missionaries experienced daily and brought back with them to Avila. After all, the work is never really "complete"; only tenacious bonds are made which must be made stronger, such as the Avila-Okolona Connection, to really achieve the factors which will lead to such completion. Isn't it worth a little time to make such a difference in so many lives?

An Avila Welcome By Liz VanNote

Avila's campus becomes internationalized!!! Next fall, Avila College will be hosting between twelve and eighteen students from Taiwan. They will be visiting the United States under the Taiwanese Undergraduate Studies in Kansas (TUSK) program. The students will be the first to study in Avila's new student services program called English as a Second Language. This is one step that Avila is taking to broaden the experiences of the Avila community.

Sr. Marie Joan Harris, Vice President and Dean of Academic Affairs, hopes that the new program will be a success. "Last summer, Saint Mary of the Plains College in Dodge City, Kansas, introduced the TUSK program. They hosted twelve Taiwanese students for this past year. Because of the enormous success they experienced, this year they have expanded the program to include all the Catholic colleges in Kansas and Avila College in Missouri. After our trip to Mexico and Russia, we hope this will be one more positive step to internationalize the campus.'

Tom Lease, Vice President and Dean of Student Affairs, explained the Taiwanese students' agenda before they arrive on Avila's campus on August 13, 1989. According to Mr. Lease, some sixty Taiwanese students will arrive in Dodge City on July 5 for several intense weeks of orientation. The student range in age from eighteen to twenty-three. Each of them has completed what is the equivalent to an American high school education with several years of English. Because of the limited facilities for the large number of students wanting to go to college in Taiwan, the opportunity to study here is the only way for many Taiwanese students to pursue a

higher education.
The students selected to attend

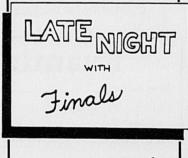


Mike Joyce works with students in Okolona.

Avila will arrive in Kansas City one week before classes begin. The residents of Kansas City with Taiwanese heritage in conjunction with the Taiwan Trade Center are anxiously awaiting the arrival of the students. They have planned a week long program about the area to help the students become comfortable with Kansas City. If all goes well, the Taiwanese students will be settled into their new homes in the residence halls with a new perspective on Kansas City when we return back for another year of school.

As the 89-90 year begins, the Taiwanese students will begin their intensive classes in English as well as classes in American culture and the American educational system here on Avila's campus. Additionally, if the students are interested they may have the opportunity to attend traditional Avila courses in such areas as Dance and Art. The students will be living on campus and eating in our cafeteria in order to enrich their experience as well as

As you return to Avila next fall be sure to welcome the Taiwanese students to Kansas City and to Avila. Give them the Avila smile and hello that we all know and love!





Last Letter from the Editor

It's that time of the year for many of us to say good-bye, either for the summer or the rest of our lives. As for me, I have to say good-bye to Avila and to those I might never see again. Along with these good-byes to those who have touched my life, I feel it's even more important to say Thank

There are many people I feel I need to say thank you to. First and most of all I want to thank my parents for my education and for giving me the chance. Next would be my best friend, he has pushed me to excel even though I fought him all the way. He has also excepted me and my mistakes with love and patience, Thank you.

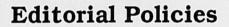
To all those who were involved in the organizations I was a member of and have helped me out of some tight spots - Thank you. There are just a hand full of names I would like to mention in particular: Johnna Y., LeAnne A., and Beth M. (I should take you with me to my new job.)

Last of all, but most important I want to thank Avila for all the opportunities it has provided me. I will always owe you a big thank you.

As I hand over my position as Editor, I feel confident that the new Editor, LeAnne Alexander, will continue the excellence the Examiner has always had (even though some may not agree because they don't believe in freedom of speech). I wish her the best of luck; and Le, stick to your gut

Avila, I will miss you but you will never be forgotten.

Good Bye. Marie E. Imming



Dear Avila,

It seems like just yesterday when I was wondering what I should say in my first Letter from the Editor." I remember worrying if I would be a success as an editor, if I was qualified, and able to stand up for freedom of speech. As the year went on and I was forced to deal with touchy subjects, I looked to my staff to assist me on positions we should take. Listed below are guidelines that the Examiner staff has agreed on and which will be enforced:

- 1. All articles, letters, and classified ads submitted for publication must be typed, double spaced and should include the author's name.
- All display ads submitted for publication must be camera-ready material/artwork.
- All letters to the editor submitted for publication must be typed, double spaced and include the author's name and telephone number. Requests can be made at the time of submission for author's name to be withheld from publication. These requests may be honored only with approval of the Editor, the Advisor and the Dean of Students.
- If, in a letter to the editor, a specific person (or organization) is referred to, it is the policy of the Examiner to: 1) notify those referred to; 2) allow he or she to read letter; and 3) allow he or she to be given the opportunity to respond to the letter in the same
- All students, faculty and staff may submit ads/publicity for Avila College events at no cost.
- Opinions expressed in the Avila Examiner do not necessarily represent the official position of Avila College but rather that of the Editorial Staff of the Examiner unless otherwise indicated.

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Layout Editor	Sydney Whitlock
Copy Editor	Darrah McHenry
Feature Editor	LeAnne Alexander
Sports Editors	Joe Patrico
	Rick Truman, Michelle Atkinson, Eric Salins, Liz VanNote
Advisor	Beth Maren

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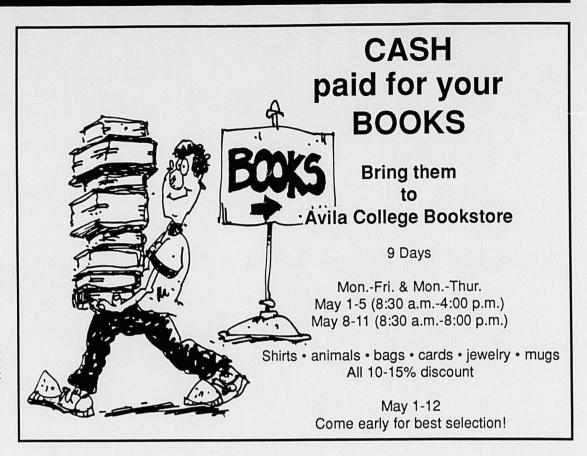
Writers, photographers, and editors are needed to fill staff vacancies. Interested students, with or without newspaper experience, are encouraged to become involved in the publication of this student newspaper.

Opinions expressed in the Avila Examiner do not necessarily represent the official position of Avila College but rather that of the Editorial Staff of the Examiner.

The Avila Examiner reserves the right to edit and print all materials

received for publication.

For more information please contact Beth Maren, Director of Residence Life, Marian Centre, Avila College, 11901 Wornall Road, Kansas City, MO



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That's Entertaining

By Eric Salins and Liz VanNote

Being stuck in Kansas City for the summer can be a real drag! We know we've been there. But just because you're here doesn't mean that you can't have loads of fun. We have done some digging and we have managed to come up with some fun and exciting suggestions for your summer entertainment in Kansas City and the surrounding areas

For everyone who loves to get outside for some fun active times we have lots of suggestions to keep you busy during the hot summer months. Worlds of Fun and Oceans of Fun are both thrilling and exhausting ways to keep you jumping this summer. For those a little less adventuresome, miniature golf is always fun for friends or a date! And don't forget the Park — Eric loves Frisbee and he says the park is the only good place to really spread out for some long throws. Of course, Liz suggests a fun summertime picnic in your neighborhood park. Let's face it, the park is one hot spot for all summer activities.

For all you sun gods and goddesses, remember that the swimming pool will be open soon. Pull on your suit, grab your towel, and lather on that oil for the ultimate in beach weather rays at the local pool. If you're really feeling spirited, several Avila students recommend biking as the all time thrill! We think it may be a little hot for the old bicycle; but if it inspires you to enjoy your summer then "Go for it!"

For anyone who feels like getting out and getting away, then think camping!!! Several nearby lakes such as Clinton Lake, Longview Lake, Smithville Lake, and the Lake of the Ozarks all offer excellent opportunities to get back to nature. For a night, a weekend, or a week the entertainment can know no bounds as you learn to appreciate the simple beauties and pleasures in life. Often, the best part of a camping trip can be your return home. Suddenly, your

very own bed never looked so cozy! Along these lines, think about experiencing the open water with a float trip. Seeing all your belongings float down river can really be a lot of fun!!! Especially in the hot months of July and August, canoes offer a fun way to stay cool and wet!

Staying in the city also offer such attractions as the Zoo and Royals Stadium. Additionally, the Missouri River can be enjoyable if you venture on the river boat for a ride into history! Don't forget one of Kansas City's newest attractions, the Spirit Festival. Free fun for everyone at Liberty Memorial!

Many people like to enjoy the outside during the summer months but, frankly, they don't like to sweat! Here are some ideas for taking it easy as you soak up summer. Starlight is offering four terrific musicals this summer that are relatively inexpensive for all the fun you can get. Annie, Fiddler on the Roof, The King and I, and Bye, Bye Birdie are all going to play this summer at our very own outside theatre. Entertainment under the stars is one of our favor-

ite ways to enjoy summer! The Drive-In is another way to enjoy the outside without sweating too much! Often considered a pastime of the past, the Drive-In is making a comeback in the hearts of many summer entertainment seekers!

If music is more your thing, then don't forget the great concerts scheduled for Sandstone this summer. If you have never attempted to find Sandstone, then never fear, it is not that far out of the city. As a matter of fact, for those of you with "the plains of Kansas" phobia you will hardly notice the rather rural surroundings as you thoroughly enjoy the atmosphere at Sandstone! However, if Sandstone is just too far for you to drive then try the free concerts offered at Crown Center. Last year they brought in some terrific talent and with any luck the same will be true for this summer! Finally, for the outside entertainment scene we must mention the Theatre in the Park at Shawnee Mission Park. Some of our very own Avila College talent will be performing out there this summer. Be sure to catch their act! But beware of the mosquitoes!

If nothing appeals to you so far because you do not like to get hot during the summer then try some of our entertaining inside activities that allow you to stay in the comfort of air conditioning. Too, on everyone's list is undoubtedly SUMMER SCHOOL!!! Let's face it, it's fun and a great way to stay out of the sun! However, if school was definitely not on your agenda then how about hitting the local mall for some cool shopping for all the hottest looks! Maybe a quiet afternoon in the coolness of your local library is what you desire. Or, bowling offers some fun in the outof-the-sun!

As we conclude this edition of "That's Entertaining" we want to say thanks for all your ideas and suggestions and for all of your faithful readings. One last note, be sure to watch for Ghost Busters II coming this summer. It promises to be the funniest movies of the summer and we can't wait to see it!!! Liz and Eric say "That is Entertaining!!!"

ENIORS!!!

Shelli Richardson Joyce Rigby Randy Ritchie Caroline Rogers Partricia Rowe Carolyn Ruby James Ryan **Brian Sackett** Eric Salins Julie Schlumpberger Kathy Schoephoerster Josephine Sciara-Meyers Evelyn Sewing Dolores Sheahan Janet Sheridan Sheila Shiflett Lisa Schockley Christine Slevin Wes Stacy Michelle Stangohr Lottie Stewart Traci Stirnaman William Stone Bridget Stoppelman Dianne Stutzman Susan Sullivan Mark Sutherland **Timothy Tarwater** Janice Thies Melissa Toigo Gigi Touslee Crystal Trumbo Colin Twedt Adrienne Vogel **Denise Walters Beverly Ward** Paul Ward Shirley Waring Debra Wernsman Kimberly Werth Paul Wetzel Rosella Wheeler Joan Whitmer Cindy Wilson Melinda Wilson Barbara Wright Ann Wycoff Jennifer Yarshen Kari Yoss Penny Young Shirley Young

Susan Young

Elizabeth Zebley

Who's Who & Why By Rick Truman

Each year at commencement exercises across the country, a select group of students is called forward to accept one of the most prestigious awards the academic community can bestow — that of being selected to Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities. This exclusive honor is conferred by more than 1,000 schools in all fifty states and the District of Columbia. This year, Avila is pleased to add five names to the list of those receiving this high honor.

The process of selecting the honorees began in November. All Seniors, faculty, and staff were given the opportunity to nominate up to ten graduating Seniors who met the criteria for the award. The criteria included scholarship, participation and leadership in academic and extra-curricular activities, citizenship and service to the school and community, and potential for future achievement. Those Seniors who received ten or more votes were sent questionnaires to be used in continuing the selection process. Only eleven of the fifteen students who received the questionnaires returned them.

On Friday, December 16, 1989, the Who's Who Selection Committee met to choose the honorees from the eleven finalists. Although Avila is allowed to nominated thirty-five students, a figure based on enrollment, the committee is very selective and usually only nominates four or five. Considerations were given to many aspects of the students' college careers and future plans. After much discussion, the final five students were selected.

This year's honorees include: Barbara Capuzelo, Nursing major; Cynthia Cook, Nursing major; Candis Donell, Communications major; Angela Lynas, Mathematics major; and Sharon O'Reilly, Nursing major.

Gary Morgan, former Director of Student Development and Chairman of the Who's Who Selection Committee, said of the award, "I feel that this is a fine honor to be able to award. It's importance, to me, is determined by the selection process used by each institution. Ours is very selective (giving an average of four awards for a quota of thirty-five), thus making the award prestigious."

Congratulations to the fine students who are receiving this honor. You have made many strongly-felt contributions to both Avila and the community. May your abilities and hard work lead you to future successes.

Chaplain's Corner

By Fr. Mike Zahorchak

FINIS - ACADEMIC YEAR, 1988-89

It's here, incredible and unbelievable as it may seem. We can't yet comprehend its reality because it hasn't hit us. But it'll happen on May 12th for most of us.

What will? The end of the 1988-89 Academic Year here at Avila.

And something that has been happening daily since the opening of school on August 24 will peak on the last day of the year, May 12th.

This 'something' that has happened is so subtle a thing that it's virtually imperceptible.

In one way it's a 'living thing'. It's also something that so fascinated the ancient Greeks that it became the foundation of western philosophy.

That 'something' that took place in each of our lives during this scholastic year was CHANGE. And the living reality, the something that should be pondered, is that each of us has CHANGED.

Before we actually begin to ponder about the 'change' that we have become, it might be a good thing to consider 2 synonyms for 'change'. These 2 'synonyms are GROWTH and DIFFERENCE and are other perspectives for viewing 'change'.

GROWTH

Here are a few considerations about 'growth'.

First, it is a positive dimension. It connotes 'maturity', a step forward in our process of 'self-actualization or 'self-realization'.

Second, there is a tragic reality that must be considered. That is not all 'change' necessarily signifies 'growth'. We've heard the axiom: "There are changes for the better; and changes for the worst."

Third, 'change' is like the river mentioned in 'Siddhartha', i.e. no one stands in the same river twice. So it is with change in our lives. We are not the same person NOW, at the end of this 1988-89 academic year, as we were in the beginning of the same, on August 24.

DIFFERENCE

Then there's 'difference', another dimension of change.

In many respects, 'Difference' represents 'growth'. But it's easier to apply the word 'difference' to change that happen <u>outside</u> ourselves and for which we are responsible.

For example, we might (and should) ask ourselves, "Have I made a difference this year" We can continue this meditation on 'difference' by further asking, "If

Than, as with 'growth', we can further ask, "Has this difference been for the better or for the worse?

so, HOW?"; "WHERE?"

Now here's something for the committed Christian to ponder, in addition to the above questions about 'making a difference in the world. And it's a statement Jesus made. He said"

So here is the standard by which we Christians are to use to measure the 'difference' we are to make in our world here at Avila.

And to the questions: How? When? Where? To Whom?, must be added another: "If not, why not?"

But no matter from that perspective we view change, the reality of it all is that we HAVE changed this year. This is what we must first realize.

Have a pleasant summer! Peace & love.

'Now I give you a new commandment; LOVE ONE ANOTHER... If you love another, then all the world will know that you are My disciples."

(Jno. 13:34,35)



Announcing the commencement of our Seniors Sale at Benetton. From now till June 1st, all graduating seniors can put on any of our Benetton Eurostyle funwear. And take 10% off. So stop by Benetton soon. It's

the perfect way to graduate with class. On the Plaza, Ward Parkway and Oak Park Mall.

benellon

Facts & Trivia You Have Wanted Know But Didn't Know Who To Ask!

By LeAnne Alexander

STOP BY AND SAY HI!

Avila's Office of Student Life has a new face. The face belongs to Tim Ayers, the new Central Reservationist. Tim has been at Avila for two weeks and he is already feeling "at home."

Tim is from Bloomington, Illinois. He lived in Phoenix, Arizona for three years. Two years ago he moved to Overland Park. He came to Avila to find employment and receive an education in Finance. He was drawn to Avila because of the small,

Tim likes softball, tennis and downhill skiing. His goal for the future is to be "rich and successful." He added, "No, success isn't just money, you can have a family and that makes your life successful."

The office staff feels Tim is an added benefit who not only does his job, but gives the office another bright personality. So stop by and say hello to Avila's new family member!

WHERE DID THEY GET THAT NAME ELDERHOSTEL

After another successful Elderhostel conference, many students were walking around saying, "Where did they get Elderhostel as a name for such a program?"

It left them with unpleasant thoughts because it reminded them of the word: hostile. "Hostile" leave you with negative connotations about anything if used to refer to something

The word hostel is spelled in a totally different way and is defined in Webster's Dictionary as, "A supervised, inexpensive lodging for travelers." The word comes from the Old French language.

Therefore, in the conference, Avila is a lodging for the elder students who attend. That's where they got "that" word.

S.U.B. ELECTION RESULTS

S.U.B. had it's fall elections on April 25th. All coordinators positions were open for nomination. Some positions were not filled and another election will take place in the fall.

Positions which are filled are:

Dance Coordinator, Darrah McHenry

Films Coordinator, Tami Gast

Co-Promotions Coordinator, Rick Truman

Co-Promotions Coordinator, LeAnne Alexander

Positions which are still available includes:

Chairperson

Special Events Coordinator

Historian

CONGRATULATIONS!

Sharon, Melanie, Donna and

Management Resume Pack-

ages \$5.00 and up. Accurate Res-

ume, 649-3003, 98th & Metcalf,

CONGRATULATIONS GRADU-

Thanks for all the laughs and

hard work. I'm gonna miss you - no

one to visit the watertower with!

Your Pal, Love, Pippy!!!

Laura on making the Dance

Squad!!! I knew you could do it.

Where's my money?! - Kris

To the "Orphans":

Great job in ALT!

GRADUATING?

ATES!!!

Dear Bozo,

S.U.B. hopes to fill all positions by fall. If you are interested in a position, please see LeAnne Alexander, 943-4342.

BUST!!!

Congratulations to all new coordinators.



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> ATTENTION GUARANTEED STUDENT LOAN BORROWERS: If you are graduating this May or June, or if this will be your last semester at Avila, you must stop by the Financial Aid Office for your **EXIT INTERVIEW.**

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BANNISTER MALL WILL ROCK YOU! Debby Z. is back...and it's better than ever on Sundays. Long Neck Specials, Taco Bar and an all new unbelievable Ladies Night Special. Come Join the fun...the very best people in Kansas City and "Those" contests!

Hey Examiner Staff... I love you and will miss you dearly. - Marie

Good Luck Rick and Le with Promo for S.U.B. next year! - Marie

Hey Sharon, OOOOOO my god!!!

Thanks Beth for letting me spread my wings. - Marie

Good Bye Avila... It was real.

Rick Truman,

Congratulations, you are going to do a great job! - LE

Hey boss, glad you are with us hope your stay is long and pleas-

And you people were worried about people filling positions. Welcome to all the new coordina-

- THE NEW PROMOS GUYS

Hey Nancy,

How about those tennis courts.

Great films for next year -YOUR ARE THE GREATEST!

Hey Glow in the Dark,

Thanks for the gel — It really hit the spot!

The party was a blast, but the performance was superb. You did great! - Le

That nasty, broken down Xerox machine is gone — We are free at

5808 Harrison, hear we come.

Dear Nancy,

I love you to pieces, here's to our late night talks. Love, Rick

To my best friend,

Thank you for always being there, you're a real special person.

Looking forward to summer with the groupie group.

You're **Going To Like** Our <u>Fresh</u> Idea In Lodging



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